



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,729	12/12/2001	Robert Stephen McNamara	9772-0302-999	9682

24341 7590 02/27/2004

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS, LLP.  
3300 HILLVIEW AVENUE  
PALO ALTO, CA 94304

EXAMINER

CHEN, PO WEI

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2676

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/020,729

Applicant(s)

MCNAMARA ET AL.

Examiner

Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen

Art Unit

2676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 34-39 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22, 28-30, 32 and 40-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 23-27, 31, 33 and 45 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

Claims 1-45 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 34, 35 and 40 are independent claims.

Claims 34-39 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

The present title of the invention is "Efficient Movement of Fragment Stamp". This action is non-final.

The Group Art Unit of the Examiner case is now 2676. Please use the proper Art Unit number to help us serve you better.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-22, 28-29 and 40-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Voorhies et al. (US 6,504,542; refer to as Voorhies herein).

3. Regarding claim 1, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

A method of traversing pixels of a graphic object with a fragment stamp, the fragment stamp having a plurality of probe points, the graphic object being defined with respect to an array of pixels that is divided into an array of contiguous but non-overlapping stamp positions at which the fragment stamp can be placed (lines 1-11 of abstract and Fig. 31A; the convex region

Art Unit: 2676

with sense points correspond to fragment stamp which is defined as having a plurality of probe points. And the points are moved for the purpose of identifying an area in the primitive for rendering pixels therein. Thus, the convex region can be considered as fragment stamp);

At a current one of the stamp positions, evaluating whether a plurality of stamp positions that are adjacent to the current stamp position are valid positions (lines 14-67 of column 33 and Fig. 28).

Wherein the evaluating step further comprises determining, at the current stamp position, whether a segment formed by two of the probe points intersects the graphic object and wherein at least one of the two probe points are exterior to the current stamp position (lines 18-33 of column 34 and Fig 27A and 28).

4. Regarding claim 2, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

Generating sliver information indicative of whether a plurality of the stamp positions adjacent to the current stamp position are sliver positions (lines 14-67 of column 33 and Fig. 28 and 28A-B; while claim recites sliver information, it is noted that by determining whether there are portions of the primitive to be processed and generating information such as snap locations can be considered as sliver information).

5. Regarding claim 3, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

Based at least in part on the sliver information, moving the fragment stamp to a next one of the stamp positions (lines 14-67 of column 33 and Fig. 28).

Art Unit: 2676

6. Regarding claim 4, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

Determining whether a forward stamp position adjacent to the current stamp position is a sliver position (lines 55-67 of column 33; rightward direction corresponds to forward position);

Determining whether a back stamp position adjacent to the current stamp position is a sliver position (lines 14-38 of column 33; leftward direction corresponds to back position);

Determining whether an over stamp position adjacent to the current stamp position is a valid position (lines 36-47 of column 33 and Fig. 28; while claim recites over stamp position, the term is broadly enough to include the snap location, which is being defined as the neighbor location of current position. And by determining if such location exist can be consider as determining if it is a valid position).

7. Regarding claim 5, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

Determining whether the over stamp position is a sliver position (lines 41-45 of column 33 and Fig. 28; it is noted that if the snap location (over stamp position) does exist, the operations of determining whether portions of the primitive are remain to be processed are executed, thus sliver position is determined).

8. Regarding claim 6, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

Based at least in part on the results of the evaluating step and based at least in part on previously saved context information, moving the fragment stamp from the current stamp position to a next one of the stamp positions (lines 14-67 of column 33 and Fig. 28; the

Art Unit: 2676

movement is being determined by evaluating step (element 2810 of Fig. 28) and saved context information (element 2802 of Fig. 28)).

9. Regarding claim 7, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

Based at least in part on the results of the evaluating step, restoring from a stamp context a previously saved stamp position so as to position the stamp in another stamp position (lines 36-47 of column 33 and Fig. 28; the previously saved snap location is being evaluated to movement of the convex region with sense points, or stamp).

10. Regarding claim 8, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

Moving the fragment stamp to one of an unvisited non-sliver valid forward stamp position and an unvisited non-sliver valid back stamp position, if any such stamp position exists (lines 28-32 and 55-62 of column 33 and Fig. 28-29; in Fig. 29A, it is noted that sense points region moves from 11 to 12 and from 14 to 15. Both positions 12 and 15 are correspond to non-sliver valid positions); otherwise moving the fragment stamp to an unvisited valid over stamp position, if any such stamp position exists (lines 22-32 of column 32 and Fig. 27-28; jump position corresponds to over position); and otherwise moving the fragment stamp to one of an unvisited sliver forward stamp position and an unvisited sliver back stamp position, if any such stamp position exists (lines 1-25 of column 36 and Fig. 30-31; in Fig. 31A, it is noted that at position 137, it is determined that there is no more unvisited jump (over) or rightward (forward) or leftward (backward) positions, the operation continues to positions 138 -246 where there are still unvisited sliver forward and back positions to be processed).

Art Unit: 2676

11. Regarding claims 9 and 10, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

Any one of the unvisited non-sliver valid forward stamp position, the unvisited non-sliver valid back stamp position, the unvisited valid over stamp position, the unvisited sliver forward stamp position and the unvisited sliver back stamp positions is either a stamp position adjacent to the current stamp position or a stamp position previously stored in one of a plurality of stamp contexts; and any one of the unvisited non-sliver valid forward stamp position and the unvisited sliver forward stamp position is a stamp position adjacent to the current stamp position (lines 14-67 of column 33 and lines 10-16 of column 34 and Fig. 28-29; it is noted that jump positions (over) are previously stored and rightward (forward) and leftward (back) positions are positions adjacent to the current position).

12. Regarding claim 10, statements presented above, with respect to claim 9 are incorporated herein.

13. Regarding claim 11, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

Moving the fragment stamp to an unvisited valid over stamp position, if any such stamp position exists (lines 25-32 of column 32, lines 57-65 of column 35 and Fig. 30-31; jump position corresponds to over positions); otherwise moving the fragment stamp to an unvisited valid forward stamp position, if any such stamp position exists; and otherwise moving the fragment stamp to a sliver forward stamp position, if any such stamp position exists (lines 46-67 of column 36 and Fig. 31; in Fig. 31A, it is noted that at position 137, there is no over (jump)

Art Unit: 2676

position, and the process continues to positions 138-246 to process unvisited forward position and/or sliver forward stamp positions).

14. Regarding claims 12-13, statements presented above, with respect to claims 9-10 are incorporated herein. Furthermore, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

The unvisited valid over stamp position is a stamp position adjacent to the current stamp position (Fig. 29A; it is noted that at position 7, position 8 is a over (jump) position and is adjacent to the current position 7).

15. Regarding claim 14, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

Moving the fragment stamp to an unvisited valid over stamp position, if any such stamp position exists (lines 36-47 of column 33 and lines 10-16 of column 34); otherwise moving the fragment stamp to an unvisited non-sliver valid back stamp position, if any such stamp position exists; and otherwise moving the fragment stamp to an unvisited sliver back stamp position, if any such position exists (lines 14-38 of column 33; leftward direction corresponds to back positions).

16. Regarding claim 15, statements presented above, with respect to claim 9 are incorporated herein.

17. Regarding claim 16, statements presented above, with respect to claim 10 are incorporated herein.

18. Regarding claim 17, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

Art Unit: 2676

Moving the fragment stamp to an unvisited valid non-sliver over stamp position, if any such stamp position exists (Fig. 31; in Fig. 31 A, the position 61 moves to position 62 which correspond to non-sliver over (jump) position); otherwise moving the fragment stamp to an unvisited non-sliver valid forward stamp position, if any such stamp position exists and if a first predetermined condition is satisfied; otherwise moving the fragment stamp to an unvisited non-sliver valid back stamp position, if any such stamp position exists and if a second predetermined condition is satisfied; otherwise moving the fragment stamp to an unvisited sliver over stamp position, if any such stamp position exists; otherwise moving the fragment stamp to an unvisited sliver forward stamp position, if any such stamp position exists and if a third predetermined condition is satisfied; and otherwise moving the fragment stamp to an unvisited sliver back stamp position, if any such stamp position exists and if a fourth predetermined condition is satisfied (lines 46-67 of column 36 and Fig. 31; in Fig. 31A, it is noted that at position 136, since there is no over (jump) position, the process continues to position 137 which is a unvisited sliver forward (rightward) position, and there is no other valid positions possible, thus, limitation of claim is met. Furthermore, the process then continues to positions 138-246 to process unvisited positions).

19. Regarding claim 18 and 19, statements presented above, with respect to claims 9-10 are incorporated herein. Furthermore, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

Any one of the unvisited non-sliver valid over stamp position and the unvisited sliver over stamp positions is either a stamp position adjacent to the current stamp position or a stamp position previously stored in one of a plurality of stamp contexts and any one of the unvisited

Art Unit: 2676

non-sliver valid over stamp position and the unvisited sliver over stamp position is a stamp position adjacent to the current stamp position (lines 14-67 of column 33 and lines 10-16 of column 34 and Fig. 28-29 and 31; in Fig. 31A, position 61 is adjacent to the unvisited non-sliver over (jump) position 62 and position 13 is adjacent to the unvisited sliver over (jump) position 14).

20. Regarding claim 20, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

Based at least in part on the results of the evaluating step, saving information associated with a stamp position that is adjacent to a current stamp position into a corresponding stamp context of a plurality of stamp contexts; the saved information including said stamp position (lines 48-52 of column 33 and Fig. 28; it is noted that the current position is being evaluated to store over (jump) position. While claim recites plurality of stamp contexts, it is noted that the evaluations is being done on multiple positions and thus a plurality of over (jump) positions are being calculated and stored).

21. Regarding claim 21, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

The saved information further comprises sliver information (lines 48-52 of column 33 and Fig. 28; position of the sliver is being calculated and saved).

22. Regarding claim 22, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

Determining whether an over stamp position adjacent to the current stamp position is a

Art Unit: 2676

valid position; and determining whether the over stamp position is a productive position by determining whether one or more sample points of the stamp will be contained within the graphics object when the stamp is placed in the over stamp position (lines 4-8 of column 33 and lines 18-33 of column 34 and Fig. 27).

23. Regarding claim 28, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

The stamp comprises a rectangle having a top edge, a bottom edge, a left edge and a right edge, and wherein the probes external to the stamp are placed such that: all probes above the top edge are no farther above said top edge than the lowest sample point in the stamp is from the bottom edge; all probes below the bottom edge are no farther below said bottom edge than the highest sample point in the stamp is from the top edge; all probes to the left of the left edge are no farther to the left of said left edge than the rightmost sample point in the stamp is from the right edge; all probes to the right of the right edge are no farther to the right of said right edge than the leftmost sample point in the stamp is from the left edge (lines 13-17 of column 32 and Fig. 27A and 29A; since placing the rectangle region with predetermined pixel size in non-overlapped manner on the object, the distance of the points will be consistent in all 4 edges of the rectangle).

24. Regarding claim 29, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

The stamp is a rectangle having a top edge, a bottom edge, a left edge and a right edge, and wherein the probes points external to the stamp are placed such that a segment between the probes points that is evaluated for intersection with the graphics object in order to compute

Art Unit: 2676

valid or sliver bits satisfies the following constraints: the stamp position immediately above has no sample point below said segment; the stamp position immediately below has no sample point above said segment; the stamp position immediately to the left has no sample point to the right of said segment; the stamp position immediately to the right has no sample point to the left of said segment (lines 18-33 of column 34 and Fig. 27A).

25. Regarding claim 40, statements presented above, with respect to claim 1 are incorporated herein. Furthermore, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

A graphics processor for rendering an image including a graphic object; a frame buffer memory configured to store information associated with the graphic object; graphics circuitry configured to render the graphic object with a fragment stamp one stamp position at a time (lines 35-40 and lines 61-66 of column 1, lines 14-25 of column 7 and lines 15-26 of column 40 and Fig. 1-2; processing modules correspond to graphic processor).

26. Regarding claim 41, statements presented above, with respect to claim 2 are incorporated herein.

27. Regarding claim 42, statements presented above, with respect to claim 3 are incorporated herein.

28. Regarding claim 43, statements presented above, with respect to claim 6 are incorporated herein.

29. Regarding claim 44, statements presented above, with respect to claim 7 are incorporated herein. Furthermore, it is noted that in Fig. 27-28, it is being validated that the current row is

Art Unit: 2676

being processed and if a previously stored jump position is found, then the position is restored and moved accordingly.

30. Regarding claim 45, statements presented above, with respect to claim 23 are incorporated herein.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

31. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

32. Claims 30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Voorhies et al. (US 6,504,542; refer to as Voorhies herein) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Choi et al. (US 6,285,376; refer to as Choi herein).

33. Regarding claims 30 and 32, Voorhies discloses a method for area rasterization using sense points comprising:

When a first plurality of predetermined conditions are satisfied, placing the stamp at a starting stamp position that includes a top-most vertex of the graphics object (lines 38 of column 30 to lines 67 of column 31 and Fig. 26-27).

Voorhies does not disclose when a second plurality of predetermined conditions are satisfied, a starting position that includes a bottom-most vertex of the graphics object; When a first plurality of predetermined conditions are satisfied, placing the stamp at a starting stamp position that includes a left-most vertex of the graphics object; and when a second plurality of predetermined conditions are satisfied, placing the stamp at a starting stamp position that

Art Unit: 2676

includes a right-most vertex of the graphics object. Choi discloses a Triangle traversing method and a rasterizer adopting the same utilizing the method (lines 53-67 of column 3 and lines 1-5 of column 4 and Fig. 2; it is noted that in the condition of traversing in the +Y, +X or -X direction, the starting point is the vertex with the minimum Y value (bottom-most vertex), the vertex with the minimum X value (left-most vertex) or the vertex with the maximum X value (right-most vertex), respectively). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to substitute the graphic object traversing of Choi for the graphic object traversing of Voorhies because Choi discloses that by utilizing the traversing method will provide efficiency and thus increase the speed of the graphic system (lines 6-9 and lines 17-29 of column 2).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

34. Claims 23-27, 31, 33 and 45, objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

35. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Prior art references do not anticipate or suggest the limitation of "Saving the over stamp position in an oversave stamp context when the over stamp position is valid and known to be productive and when said oversave stamp context does not already contain a stamp position that is known to be productive." in combination with the other claim limitations in claims 23 and 45.

Prior art references do not anticipate or suggest the limitation of "Making a sliver back stamp position invalid if the over stamp position is valid" in combination with the other claim limitations in claim 24.

Prior art references do not anticipate or suggest the limitation of “Making a sliver forward stamp position invalid if the over stamp position is valid” in combination with the other claim limitations in claim 26.

Prior art references do not anticipate or suggest the limitation of “If a distance from a top-most sample point to a top edge of the stamp is larger than a distance from the bottom-most sample point to a bottom edge of the stamp rectangle, placing the stamp at the starting stamp position that includes the top-most vertex of the graphics object; and otherwise, placing the stamp at the starting stamp position that includes the bottom-most vertex of the graphics object” in combination with the other claim limitations in claim 31.

Prior art references do not anticipate or suggest the limitation of “If the distance from a left-most sample point to a left edge of the stamp is larger than the distance from a right-most sample point to a right edge of the stamp rectangle, placing the stamp at the starting stamp position that includes the left-most vertex of the graphics object, otherwise placing the stamp at the starting stamp position that includes the right-most vertex of the graphics object” in combination with the other claim limitations in claim 33.

### ***Conclusion***

36. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lentz et al. (US 5,446,836);

Sfarti (US 5,528,737);

Watkins (US 5,598,517);

Duluk, Jr. et al. (US 6,476,807);

Art Unit: 2676

*Inquiry*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen whose telephone number is (703) 305-8365. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew C Bella can be reached on (703) 308-6829. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2676

Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen  
October 6, 2003



MATTHEW C. BELLA  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600